

Objective: Solve Trigonometric Equations Using Double-Angle Identities.

Concept

**Steps to Solve a Trigonometric Equation that Includes a Double-Angle**

1. Use a Double-Angle Identity to rewrite the double angle expression.
2. Solve the Equation.  
Given a Quadratic Structure:
  1. Write the equation in standard form.
  2. Use a quadratic strategy.
    1. Square Root Property
    2. Factoring
    3. Quadratic Formula
3. Find the angle measure(s) that correspond to the function value(s).

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Ex) Solve  $\sin 2x \cos x - \sin x = 0$  for  $0 \leq x < 2\pi$ .

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 2 \sin x \cos x \cos x - \sin x = 0$$

$$2 \sin x \cos^2 x - \sin x = 0 \quad \text{A quadratic structure}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \sin x (2 \cos^2 x - 1) = 0$$

$$\sin x = 0 \quad 2 \cos^2 x - 1 = 0$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad x = 0, \pi$$

$$\cos^2 x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\sqrt{\cos^2 x} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\cos x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad x = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

solutions

$$x = 0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \pi, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

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Ex) Solve  $\cos 2x + \cos x = 0$  for  $[0, 2\pi)$ .

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ 2\cos^2 x - 1 + \cos x = 0 \end{array} \quad \text{quadratic structure}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 2\cos^2 x + \cos x - 1 = 0$$

$$(2\cos x - 1)(\cos x + 1) = 0$$

$$2\cos x - 1 = 0 \quad \cos x + 1 = 0$$

$$\cos x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\cos x = -1$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad x = \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3} \quad x = \pi$$

solutions:  $x = \frac{\pi}{3}, \pi, \frac{5\pi}{3}$

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Closure

Brandon needs to solve the equation  $\cos 2x + 5\sin x = 4$ . Which Double-Angle Identity should Brandon use? Explain your reasoning.

Brandon should use the Double-Angle Identity  $1 - 2\sin^2 x$  so that the terms of the equation will all be powers of  $\sin x$ .



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**Double-Angle Identities**

$$\sin 2\alpha = 2 \sin \alpha \cos \alpha$$

$$\tan 2\alpha = \frac{2 \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan^2 \alpha}$$

$$\cos 2\alpha = \cos^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha$$

$$\cos 2\alpha = 1 - 2\sin^2 \alpha$$

$$\cos 2\alpha = 2\cos^2 \alpha - 1$$